

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 have been examined. With this amendment, Applicant cancels claims 2 and 10 and adds claims 11-16. Claims 1, 3-9, and 11-16 are all the claims pending in the application.

1. Formalities

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for foreign priority and for confirming that the certified copy of the priority document has been received.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for initialing the references listed on form PTO-1449 submitted with the information disclosure statement filed on November 6, 2000.

2. Claims Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Deguchi et al. (US 6,295,080) [“Deguchi”]. Applicant traverses the rejection.

Claim 1 recites a printing method for an optical printer “wherein the printing head is moved out of an exposure area of the photographic recording medium during the preliminary emission process.” The Examiner contends that this feature is obvious and equivalent to moving the recording medium as disclosed in Deguchi.

Applicant submits that all claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. MPEP 2143.03. The mere fact that Deguchi may disclose one method where the recording medium is kept from being exposed does not make other methods obvious and the Examiner must still provide a convincing line of reasoning why the claimed combination would have been obvious to one skilled in the art.

Applicant submits that the claimed combination would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art based on the teachings of Deguchi since the exposure head 40 in Deguchi is fixed (Fig. 2 and col. 7, lines 7-10). Therefore, the Examiner's contention that moving the printing head is obvious could only have been made through improper hindsight and with the aid of Applicant's own disclosure.

Because claims 3 and 4 depend on claim 1, Applicant submits that these claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

3. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Deguchi. Applicant has canceled claim 2.

The Examiner has rejected claims 5-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gowda et al. (US 6,628,333) ["Gowda"] in view of Deguchi. Applicant traverses the rejection.

Claim 5 recites a printer-incorporated electronic still camera comprising a head scanning device that "removes the printing head from the exposure area during the preliminary emission process." Because this feature is similar to that recited in claim 1, Applicant submits that claim 5 is patentable for at least the reason given in claim 1.

Because claims 6-9 depend on claim 5, Applicant submits that these claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency. Applicant has canceled claim 10.

In addition, claim 7 recites a printer-incorporated electronic still camera “wherein the driving device makes the preliminary emission process when the battery detection device detects that the power source batteries are newly loaded.” The Examiner contends that Gowda discloses the detection of power source batteries, but the cited section of Gowda only discloses an instant film cartridge with an integrated power source (see Col. 6, lines 51-54 of Gowda). At most, the cited sections of Deguchi disclose that a preliminary light emission is conducted after power is turned on. Neither reference discloses the detection of batteries.

Applicant submits that Gowda and Deguchi (alone or in combination) do not disclose the detection of newly inserted batteries which triggers the preliminary emission process as set forth in claim 7.

Claim 8 recites a printer-incorporated electronic still camera “wherein the driving device makes the preliminary emission process when the detection device detects that the photographic recording medium is newly loaded.” The Examiner’s cited sections, at most, disclose a removable film cartridge and that a preliminary light emission is conducted before exposure of the recording medium. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Gowda or Deguchi (alone or in combination) that the detection of the recording medium triggers the preliminary emission process as set forth in claim 8.

4. New Claims

With this amendment, Applicant adds claims 11-16. Applicant submits that these claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency, as well as the features set forth therein.

5. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: July 8, 2004